

UCRP CBC Voter Information Guide
Constitution Change
C-103 Reductions in Central Committee Membership

Constitution & Bylaws Committee Recommends Rejection (Adoption-3, Rejection-4)
Executive Committee Recommends Rejection (Adoption-5, Rejection-17)

Purpose

The intent of this amendment is to include as members of the Central Committee the following three groups of elected party officers: precinct chairs and vice chairs; house district (LD) chairs, vice chairs, and education chairs; and county party officers elected in convention; or any properly appointed replacements, and to remove other members of the Central Committee, as outlined below.

If this amendment passes, the following would be members of the Central Committee:

Elected County Party Officers - 4

Legislative District Officers - 39

Precinct Chairs - 241

Precinct Vice Chairs - 241

Total-525

The following would no longer be members of the Central Committee:

County Elected Officials - 10

Federal Elected Officials - 2

Utah Representatives - 12 (possibly 13)

Utah Senators - 4 (possibly 6)

Governor – 1 (or any future state office holders who live in Utah County)

Past Party Chairs - 13 (possibly an additional one every two years)

Appointed Steering Committee Members - 5

Total – 47 (possibly 50)

(Changes in **bold**, additions are underlined, removed text is ~~in strikethrough~~)

Article III E.3

The Central Committee shall consist of the Voting Precinct Chairs and Vice-Chairs; the Party's Elected County Officers; ~~the Party's Appointed County Officers;~~ the Legislative District Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Education Officers. ~~all past full-term County Chairs who served to the end of the term to which they were elected or to which they succeeded as County Chair and served a minimum of six months; and all County, State and Federal Elected Officials.~~

Arguments FOR

Most partisan elected officials do not attend or participate in the business of County Central Committee meetings. The adoption of this amendment would relieve them of the additional duties and pressures associated with the Central Committee and allow them to focus on what they were elected to do.

Elected partisan officials should be accountable to the party--not the other way around.

The majority of past county party chairs do not attend Central Committee meetings. Most of those who attend do so because they have been elected to another position that places them on the

committee. The adoption of this amendment would relieve past county party chairs of the duties associated with membership on the Central Committee. As evidenced by their poor attendance, most of them do not take seriously the obligation to serve on the committee. Should they desire to be involved, **they have the benefit of their experience and name recognition to earn their seats by being elected at the Precinct or Legislative District levels.**

Appointed members of the steering committee are not elected by anyone. Their duty is to serve on the Steering Committee. They also have the opportunity to be elected at the Precinct or Legislative District levels. **Awarding central committee seats to appointees augments the power of those who appoint them.**

This proposal resolves a conflict in our party documents. Bylaw 5.A, says that "All elected and appointed Party officers, including County Party Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and appointed Officers **and Committee Members** ... shall, upon assuming office, agree to ... Resign from their Utah County Republican Party office upon being elected to a partisan public office." The spirit of this provision of the bylaw is to preclude a conflict of interest between the rule-making body of the party, and the office holders who seek re-election pursuant to those rules.

This proposal would result in a more equitable distribution of precinct representatives. Precincts in which partisan elected officials reside have more representatives on the Central Committee than precincts in which no partisan elected officials reside.

These changes would reduce the influence of those whose seats would be eliminated from the committee and **a proportionate amount of influence would accrue to those remaining on the committee.**

Those remaining would be predominantly precinct chairs and vice-chairs (going from 85% of the whole currently, to 92% in this proposal), or "**delegates of the grassroots**," as they are known; legislative district officers would comprise 7%, and county party officers would comprise 1%.

Arguments AGAINST

This proposal kicks 50 people out of the Central Committee which are all Republicans who have earned the vote of their constituents. **For what purpose?** Are these people causing us to lose elections? Are they making the party ineffective? Are they creating bickering and contention? Are they causing us to spend an hour to adopt an agenda in Central Committee?

We need a strong partnership with our Republican elected officials. They have the best knowledge of the workings of our government, are most familiar with current issues, and know what it takes to advance our platform. But this sends the message "once elected, you are not welcome in the party". This proposal only further divides the party.

Some claim that officers elected at the caucus have a superior "grass roots" quality, but the caucus is attended by relatively few. Our public officials are elected by thousands of voters who have never attended a caucus – **you can't get any more "grass roots" than that!**

In the past there have been attempts by special interest and extreme groups to "pack" the caucuses with their activists. Our public officials are elected by a much broader base and thereby bring a **stabilizing influence** to the party in the same way that the US Senate provides a check-and-balance on the US House.

The purpose of the Central Committee is not to bring democracy to the party- it is to make the best

decisions for political strategy. **Our goal is quality decisions** – and for that we need the participation of those who have the best hands-on experience.

Elected Officials are prohibited from running for any party office that would give them membership in the Central Committee, so they have no other way of having a voice in decisions of the party. Our Central Committee makes bylaws and platform decisions which affect and bind our public officials and they **should have a vote** in those decisions.

The “Appointed” county officers are voted in by the entire Central Committee, and they work just as hard as the “elected” party officers. **They need to be committee members** so they can give reports and participate in decisions about their areas of responsibility.

Past Party chairs were elected by the entire convention, and provide a wealth of **experience and institutional knowledge**.

We need our elected officials, past chairs, and all Steering Committee members in our Central Committee. It is not just that they deserve a vote, but rather **our party decisions are better because of their vote**.